

Message Text

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TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING

REF: USNATO 0099

1. WHILE NATO STAFF TASKS CONNECTED WITH THE SPRING PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING NATO DEFENSES, AS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL, APPEAR FORMIDABLE, WE BELIEVE THAT WITH PROPER TIMING AND ALLOCATION OF EFFORT THEY ARE MANAGEABLE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, SUPPORT ANY SIMPLIFICATION IN THE HANDLING OF THESE TASKS IN ORDER THAT MINISTERS MIGHT BE PRESENTED AS CLEAR A PICTURE AS POSSIBLE OF THE STATE OF NATO DEFENSES AND DEFENSE PLANNING. COMMENTS ON POINTS RAISED IN PANS A
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LETTER ARE GIVEN IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. BASIC ISSUES. SINCE APPENDIX TO EWG DOCUMENT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE HERE, WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON PLAN FOR OBTAINING, COLLECTING AND PROCESSING NATIONAL DATA. WE RELY ON MISSION TO DEAL WITH FORMAT, SCOPE AND TIMING OF SPECIAL NATIONAL REPORTS. WE AGREE THAT AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM MATERIAL BEING PREPARED FOR OTHER REPORTS TO MINISTERS. WE VIEW THE PURPOSE OF BASIC ISSUES REPORT AS IDENTIFYING AND EMPHASIZING PROGRESS ON CRITICAL IMPROVEMENTS. THE SELECTION BY DPC PERMREPS OF ADDITIONAL AREAS FOR EXAMINATION AND NATIONAL APPROVAL SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER RECEIPT OF THE MC REPORT ON LESSONS

OF THE RECENT MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. THE DRAFT REPORT FOR MINISTERS ON ADDITIONAL CRITICAL AREAS SHOULD IDENTIFY THE ADDITIONAL AREAS FOR EXAMINATION, THEIR CURRENT STATUS IN NATO AND NATIONAL PLANNING AS SHOWN IN NATIONAL FORCE PLANS 1974-1978 AND NATO FORCE GOALS 1975-1980, AND EWG PLANS FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THESE AREAS.

3. DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. IDEALLY, THERE SHOULD BE AN EASILY RECOGNIZABLE PATTERN OR CYCLE ENCOMPASSING THE VARIOUS DEFENSE PLANNING ACTIVITIES, THEY SHOULD BE MUTUALLY SUPPORTING, AND THERE SHOULD BE MINIMUM DUPLICATION. PRACTICALLY, THE AD-70 ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW IS THE ONLY NATO EFFORT ENCOMPASSING ALL OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING ACTIVITY (THE TWO-YEAR ACTIONS OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NATO FORCE GOALS COVER ONLY NATIONAL FORCES, AS IS THE CASE ALSO OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF FORCE PLANS). HENCE, WE WOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO LOSE THE ANNUAL IMPACT OF THE AD-70 SPRING REVIEW, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE VALUE AS AN OVERALL DEFENSE MANAGEMENT TOOL WHICH COVERS SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AS WELL AS FORCE CAPABILITIES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE, AS IS MORE WIDELY RECOGNIZED, THE AD-70 ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW OFFERS THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THE EWG AND DPC PERMREPS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOMMEND ADDITIONAL EMPHASIS TO CERTAIN CRITICAL AREAS, AS THEY EMERGE FROM THE REVIEW OF FORCE CAPABILITIES AND SUPPORTING PROGRAMS. US EMPHASIS

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IN THE JUNE 7, 1973 DPC MINISTERIAL ON CRITICAL AREAS ON FORCE IMPROVEMENT, WHICH LED TO THE CURRENT EFFORT ON BASIC ISSUES, WAS AN EFFORT TO NARROW-DOWN THE LIST OF CRITICAL ITEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE SPRING 1973 AD-70 REVIEW TO A VERY FEW MANAGEABLE HIGH PRIORITY EFFORTS. THE VEHICLE OF THE BASIC ISSUES STUDY SHOULD CONTINUE. HOWEVER, 1974 SPRING AD-70 REVIEW MAY ASSIST IN FOCUSING ON AGREED CRITICAL ADDITIONAL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CURRENT NATIONAL FORCE CAPABILITIES (AS ASSESSED ON A REGIONAL BASIS), CURRENT SUPPORTING PROGRAMS, AND THE MC VIEW OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

4. IN SUMMARY, WE WISH TO RETAIN AND IMPROVE THE ANNUAL AD-70 SPRING REVIEW, KEEPING ITS FOCUS ON BOTH FORCE CAPABILITIES AND SUPPORTING PROGRAMS. WE EXPECT THAT MINISTERS AT THIS SPRING MEETING WILL BE INFORMED OF

PROGRESS IN NATIONAL AND NATO PLANNING ON THE THREE "BASIC ISSUES" CRITICAL AREAS OF FORCE IMPROVEMENT ALREADY IDENTIFIED. WE EXPECT AGREEMENT ON EXAMINATION OF AN ADDITIONAL VERY FEW REPEAT VERY FEW CRITICAL AREAS OF FORCE OR DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT (CONSISTENT WITH MC FINDINGS

ON LESSONS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT) AND ON PLANS FOR EXAMINING THESE AREAS. WE PREFER TO CONTINUE FOR THE TIME BEING A SEPARATE REPORT ON BASIC ISSUES. WE WOULD EXPECT A MISSION JUDGMENT WHETHER THE FINAL STEP OF IDENTIFYING A VERY FEW ADDITIONAL CRITICAL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE SPRING AD-70 REVIEW OR WHETHER THIS FINAL REFINEMENT RESULTING FROM THE EXAMINATION OF THE STATUS OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS, THEIR BALANCE, AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT CAN BEST BE HANDLED IN A SEPARATE EXERCISE.
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